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The President's Daily Brief

May 30, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

May 30, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets, on the second anniversary of the first summit between President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev, are clearly looking toward a second meeting. (Page 1)

Turkey, impatient over Greece's hesitation to commit the Aegean Sea dispute to negotiation, apparently is exploring the disputed area for oil under a military cover. Greek forces are reported on alert. (Page 2)

Pakistani President Bhutto is looking for diplomatic support in the wake of India's nuclear test. (Page 3)

In South Vietnam, Communist plans for the remainder of their May-June offensive appear to be focused on Tay Ninh, Binh Duong, and Hau Nghia provinces. (Page 4)

President Spínola warned yesterday that Portuguese armed forces would respond with force if necessary to prevent "anarchists" from undermining the existing order. (Page 5)

Israel has built its fourth guided-missile patrol boat. (Page 6)

A Soviet lunar probe was launched yesterday and a Soyuz spacecraft was brought down after two days in orbit. (Page 6)

Ethiopia's Prime Minister is more confident about working with reformers among the military. (Page 6)

Czechoslovak party chief Husak is reported ready to take over the presidency after the incumbent dies. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

Soviet commentators have marked the second anniversary of the first summit meeting between President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev with high praise for the state of US-Soviet relations and a renewed call for a campaign to make detente irreversible.

In contrast to recent signs of nervousness in Moscow regarding the status of the coming summit, a Tass item Tuesday cited preparations for the President's scheduled trip to the USSR as evidence of "the successful development of Soviet-American relations." Moscow radio observed on the same date that the most authoritative representatives of the American public now are fully behind detente and are actively seeking concrete progress in bilateral cooperation.

Other Soviet commentaries in recent days have taken the line that the difficulties of the past two years--Vietnam, the Middle East war, and the coup in Chile--have tested the strength of the Soviet-American commitment to normal relations and have proven its vitality and effectiveness.



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GREECE-TURKEY

Ankara, impatient over Athens' hesitation to commit the Aegean Sea dispute to negotiation, apparently is pursuing its "rights" in the area under a military cover. It announced yesterday that it has sent a research ship to the eastern Aegean, where it will engage in preliminary oil exploration.

The Turkish foreign minister has announced that the research ship was preceded by a number of warships. Another official said that the exploration will take place in "disputed waters." The Greeks are on record as saying that such an action would be regarded as "illegal" and would lead Greece to defend its "rights" in the Aegean Sea with force.

Turkish naval sources have said that a flotilla consisting of at least four submarines, several minesweepers, and gunboats sailed early yesterday from the Turkish base at Golcuk on the Marmara Sea. This apparently is the force accompanying the research ship. It put to sea ostensibly to participate in an exercise with US ships.

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According to press reports late yesterday, Greek armed forces were in an advanced state of readiness in reaction to Turkish moves. Official Greek sources, however, have not confirmed this information.

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PAKISTAN

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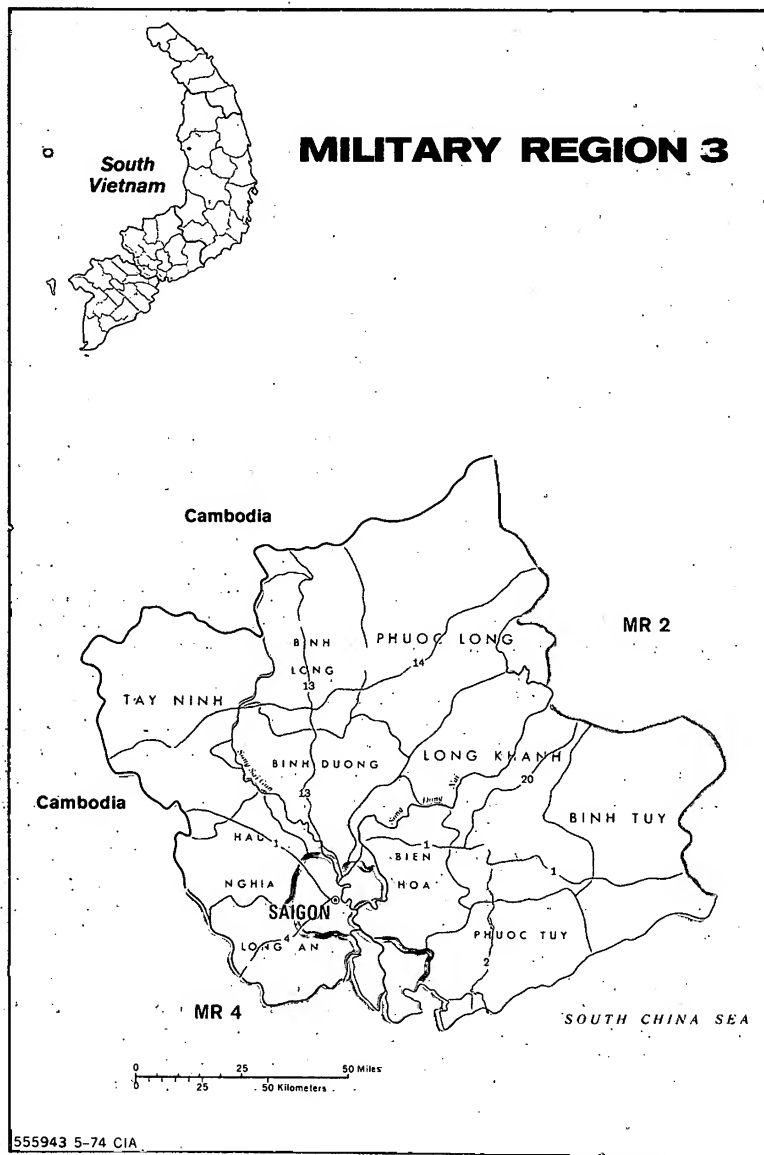
Prime Minister Bhutto has launched an extensive diplomatic campaign in the wake of India's nuclear test.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist plans for the remainder of their May-June campaign in Military Region 3 appear to be focused on Tay Ninh, Binh Duong, and Hau Nghia provinces.

[redacted] a fresh wave of fighting in these areas may occur as soon as June 1. The attacks will largely be limited to government strongpoints and to on-going South Vietnamese operations against Communist territory and forces. They appear to be a continuation of the campaign that COSVN announced in early May to inflict heavy casualties on government units and to improve the Communists' military position in the countryside.

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[redacted] government military commanders remain confident that they can contain any new fighting. [redacted]

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PORTUGAL

President Spínola warned yesterday that the armed forces would respond with force if necessary to prevent "anarchists" from undermining the existing order. The authorities are particularly concerned about immoderate labor demands, some of which are being pressed by far-left extremists outside the Communist Party.

The government's attitude is supported by the Democratic Movement, a coalition of Liberals, Socialists, and Communists, which issued a communiqué to that effect on May 27. In publicly throwing their support to the government, the Communists seem motivated by the desire to protect their newly respectable position and by fear that far-left extremism could lead to a counter coup.

It is not clear how much influence Communists exert within the Democratic Movement, but it is apparent that the Portuguese Communist Party is well-entrenched in the rudimentary trade union movement. The US Embassy in Lisbon believes that Communists control industrial and service sectors of the trade unions and that they are working without serious resistance to influence the agricultural and civil service sectors where there are no existing labor institutions.

The Socialists and other non-Communist parties in Portugal do not have the experience, funds, or membership to compete with the Communists, and the gap in organizational strength is widening. Socialist Party leader Mario Soares is preoccupied with his duties as foreign minister, and no non-Communist leader appears to be concentrating on building a political organization.

Israeli-Built Guided-Missile Patrol Boat



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NOTES

Israel: Tel Aviv was scheduled to launch its fourth Israeli-produced guided-missile patrol boat yesterday; it will probably be operational by mid-July. Two more are to be completed by the end of the year. The boats are equipped with at least six Gabriel antiship missiles each, can remain at sea for several weeks at a time, and can operate over considerable distances. The first two boats of this class were sent to the Red Sea two months ago, and the third and fourth will probably join them this fall.

USSR: The mission of the Soviet lunar probe launched yesterday is to conduct scientific research from orbit around the moon, according to a Tass announcement. The probe will arrive in the vicinity of the moon on June 2; the Soviets probably do not intend to land a payload on the lunar surface. The Soviets yesterday also brought down their latest unmanned Soyuz spacecraft after two days in orbit.

Ethiopia: Cabinet appointments announced this week indicate Prime Minister Endalkatchew's increased confidence in working with reform-minded military elements. The changes include the transfer of Interior Minister Zewde, who has the confidence of military moderates, to the less sensitive post of foreign minister and the return of some old-line conservatives to the cabinet. Although the military moderates still hold the balance of power in Ethiopia, they apparently have decided to compromise with the government on some matters in order to avoid violence and to hold traditional rivalries in check. The moderates will continue to press for reform, and they believe their long-term prospects are good.

Czechoslovakia: Czech leaders reportedly have agreed that Gustav Husak will assume the presidency and remain secretary general of the party upon the death of President Svoboda, who is seriously ill. This arrangement would not upset the delicate factional balance within the leadership. It would, however, revive unpleasant memories of the repressive regimes of Gottwald and Novotny, each of whom held both posts.

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